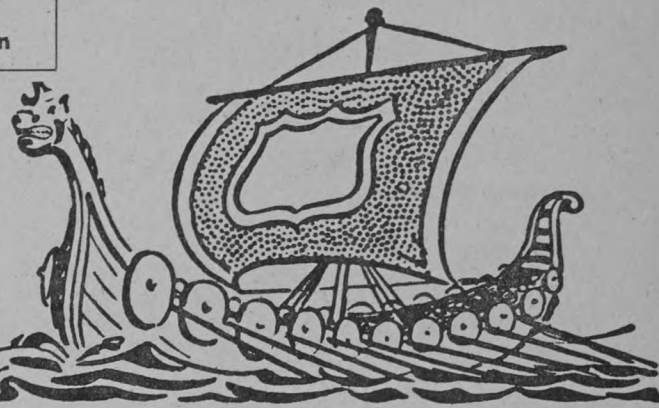




Scandinavian Centre News



PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

VOL. XII No. 1

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TEN PAGES

JANUARY 1972

CENTRE FLIGHT AWAY

"Scandapades '72" Likely Sellout

By Knut Svidal

Director

If one word could describe "Scandapades '71" it would be "ENTHUSIASM".

Co-ordinator



BENGT KRISTIANSSON

Producer Co-ordinator Bengt Kristiansson and Director Jack McCreath are enthusiastic. They should be — they have excellent talent arranged, backed up by a keen and energetic crew of assistants.

Last year's performance was one of the best Scandapades productions to date and people will be back to see another top show.

Tickets are out — get yours now. The Jubilee Auditorium holds only 2700 persons. Remember the date — Saturday, February 26.



JACK MCCREATH

Bengt Kristiansson said a committee meeting will be held at the Scandinavian Centre on Sun., Jan. 9. All committee members, please attend.

Allan Larsen, Director of Stage Settings, needs some helping hands to make backdrops for the stage. Anyone able to use a hammer and willing to help in Scandapades, kindly get in touch with Allen at 488-4560.

A Guide-Book for Foreign Students

This booklet has been published by the University of Oslo to aid foreign students planning to attend the university. It includes information on admission requirements, length of study for the various degrees, health insurance for students, housing, Norwegian language courses, student activities, etc. 36 pages.

Postdoctorate Fellowships 1972-'73

The Royal Norwegian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research will grant fellowships for the year 1972-1973 to young scientists wishing to undertake research work in the fields of science and engineering in Norwegian institutes. Candidates should not be more than 35 years of age and should have qualifications corresponding at least to a Ph.D. in science or engineering.

Fellowships will be granted for a full year of study or research, and applications for renewal for a second year will be favorably considered. The English language may be used at all institutes.

The annual stipend is in the amount of 32,000 Norwegian kroner for single Fellows and 35,000 kroner for male Fellows who are married. An additional grant of 1,500 kroner will be given for each dependent child. Stipends are exempted from income tax in Norway.

Application forms and supporting documents should be sent to the Royal Norwegian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Gaustadalleen 30, Oslo 3, Norway. The deadline is February 1, 1972. Further information will be sent on request.

Last year, 26 foreign scientists came to Norway on this program to undertake postdoctorate work.

ASF Fellowships and Grants for 1972-1973

The American - Scandinavian Foundation offers the following fellowships and grants for study in Norway during the academic year 1972-73: Crown Princess Martha Fellowship (\$2,900); Former Fellows Fund Grant (\$500); Junior New York Chapter Grant (\$700); Carol and Hans Christian Sonne Grant (\$2,000); and Alice and Corrin Strong Grant (\$1,200).

Application blanks may be obtained by writing to Exchange Division, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 127 East 73rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, and decisions on awards will be announced on or about March 15.

SMILE

If you think driving recklessly is funny, you may die laughing.

CHRISTMAS FLIGHT GONE

Christmas In Scandinavia

By Vera Nielsen

Scandinavian Centre Christmas Flight left Edmonton International Airport on Wed., Dec. 15 at 1:07 p.m., only 12 minutes later than scheduled on Air Canada Flight No. 902.

Fifty-four people spent Christmas with relatives and friends in their homeland. Arrangements were originally for a group of 45 people, 9 more applied for seats in time for special arrangements to be made for participation. Another 6 persons applied too late. It is regretted they were unable to go. This goes to

prove, if you wish to take advantage of these special offers, for groups or charter flights, do not wait too long in deciding to go.

The summer flights are filling fast. People realize it is still smarter to go Charter with its direct and prompt service. So act now to help the Scandinavian Centre to help you.

Alta. Minister Visits Scandinavia

SAS Representative

The Honourable Horst A. Schmid, Minister of Youth, Culture and Recreation for the Alberta government, visited Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Germany in the capacity of Acting Minister of Industry on a fact finding trip. Mr. Schmid, went in the place of the Honourable Fred Peacock, Minister of Industry, who was unable to go himself.

Mr. Schmid left Edmonton Nov. 26 and returned Dec. 13 having about four days in each capital.

He was preceded to the Scandinavian countries by Mr. Otto Von Rosen, western area Director of Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), who helped to arrange meetings with businessmen and industrialists in the respective Scandinavian capitals.

A responsive reception was given Mr. Schmid wherever he went and gained much interested for Canada and, particularly Alberta. He says a delegation will be sent from the countries he visited to see for themselves the climate this country has to offer in the way of trade.



OTTO VON ROSEN

M. Schmid is reporting to the cabinet and a report will be sent out upon its completion.

THE LOWDOWN

Survey reveals hard facts about Calgary and Edmonton
From "Inform"—Human Resources Research Council of Alberta

As every Albertan knows — unless he happens to have been living incommunicado in an underground cave for the past decade — Alberta is best described as a land of milk and honey. Alberta is well off in many ways, and particularly well off economically. Alberta is a 'have' province and the signs of provincial prosperity are everywhere.

The belief in Alberta's inherent economic good fortune has become an article of faith which few Albertans would care to challenge. It came as something of a shock,

therefore, when the Human Resources Research Council came up with an estimate that 25 percent of those living in Alberta's two major urban centers were living in poverty. The estimate was based on the income-per-family assumptions of the Economic Council of Canada's 1968 study on poverty adjusted to apply to known conditions in 1971.

Worse than the actual number, was the trend the numbers suggested. Compared to the 1931 Cen-

(Continued on Page 3)

The Board of Directors Of A Co-operative

Each co-operative incorporated under the Act must elect a Board of Directors, each one of whom must be a member of the Association. (The only exception to this rule is where provision is made for one or more directors to be appointed).

Normally a director is elected for a three year term and is eligible for re-election at the end of

such period.

The Chairman of the Board is elected as follows:

"The Board of Directors shall meet immediately after the first general meeting of the Association and subsequently immediately after each annual meeting, and at such meetings shall appoint from

(Continued on Page 2)

SPLINTERS from the BOARD

By Claus Jacobsen

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Flight organizer for our 1972 Charter Flights, Vera Nielsen, celebrated her 70th birthday on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at her daughter's in Las Vegas. Friends and relatives gathered at a surprise party Dec. 14 to wish her "Happy Birthday" and many more to come.

Vera Nielsen has been very active with the Scandinavian Centre, from before it was founded, during its existence and still is, as well as with the Danish Society "Danla".

SHAREHOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING

Next month is the shareholders annual meeting, the time again for the shareholders to decide who will serve on the Board of Directors. Shareholders cannot stay at home in their comfortable chesterfields and vote, however, so, please, come to the Centre to the annual meeting in February.

DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

In December the responsibilities of the Directors for Centre Operations and Charter Flights were explained. There are also Directors in charge of Publicity, Cultural Activities, Dances, Scandinavian Day Picnic, Sharesales and Scandapades. There is also a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Director for Publicity takes care of "Splinters from the Board" in the Scandinavian Centre News each month, and also organizes the Scandinavian Centre Report over CFCW Camrose each Saturday morning.

Cultural Director has been looking after and organizing coffee parties, and takes care of the Scandinavian Queen Contest.

Dances and the New Years Eve Frolic are looked after by the Director in charge with help from his committee.

Each Director in charge of a certain function may have a committee to work with him.

In February, the duties of Directors of the picnic, sharesales and Scandapades will be explained.

SCANDAPADES '72

By the way, Scandapades '72 is taking form under co-ordinator Bengt Kristiansson. The first rehearsal will be on Sun., Jan. 16.

RADIO REPORT

Listen to the Scandinavian Show on Radio Station CFCW every Saturday morning at 10:30 - 790 kc on your A.M. dial. The Scandinavian Centre Report is broadcast on this program at approximately 11:25.

Les Morris, Scandinavian Centre News Managing Editor, will give the report during the month of January.

The report in February will be given by Margaret Cameron.

If you have any news for January, please call Les at 455-4355 in the mornings.



LES MORRIS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Continued from Page 1)

their own number a Chairman."

The duties of the Board of Directors may be broadly stated as follows:

(a) The Board of Directors shall direct and supervise the business of the Association, and may exercise all such powers of the Association as are not required to be exercised by the Association in general meeting.

(b) The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee from among their number, and shall, if appointed, define their duties.

(c) The Directors may by resolution, appoint such managers or other officers as they may deem necessary for the conduct of the affairs and business of the Association defining their duties and fixing their remuneration.

(d) In case any vacancy occurs in the Board, the remaining Directors may appoint a member of the Association as a Director who shall hold office until the next general meeting of the members of the Association.

(e) The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as they may from time to time determine.

(f) The Chairman of the Board shall call a special meeting of the Board upon the written request of

a majority of the Directors, and the Secretary shall mail to each Director at least five days prior to such meeting a notice of the time, place and the purpose of the meeting, but if all the Directors are present at a meeting it shall be deemed to have been regularly called whether or not the prescribed notice of the meetings has been given.

(g) The Chairman may vote upon any question, but having done so, he shall not have a casting vote in the event of a tie. In the event of there being no majority in favour of a motion the motion shall be declared lost.

(h) In case a Director fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board of which he has been duly notified, his office shall be declared vacant, unless his absence has been explained to the satisfaction of the Board, and upon his office being declared vacant another member shall be appointed by the Board to take his place.

(i) At a meeting of Directors held prior to the annual meeting the Directors shall adopt a report covering all the activities of the Association for the preceding twelve months, and such report shall be presented to the members at the annual meeting.

(j) If any Director is, to the satisfaction of the Board, proved to be guilty of disloyalty without adequate cause, the Board may by re-

NEW YEAR 1972

Will this year be a retread — same old habits, same old ways, same old weaknesses, same old mistakes, same old heartaches, same old procrastinations?

Or will this new year for you be a fresh and wonderful beginning-to-be-better kind of experience?

What do you want the new year to bring?

Would you have PEACE?

Then in your own soul be peaceful. Create in your home a haven of serenity, free from confusion and disorder.

Would you have JOY?

Then let the happiness of goodness, of living the commandments, permeate the atmosphere around you.

Would you have LOVE?

Then be loving and lovable. Do not be afraid to express your love by word and deed. Enlarge your capacity to love by service to others.

Would you have TIME?

Then learn to use the valuable hours, minutes, even seconds, more wisely. Time to do all of the things of which we dream is of our own making.

Would you have OPPORTUNITY?

Then open your eyes to the possibilities closest to you. If you desire to make personal progress, enlarge your vision, make your own opportunities to study, to observe, to grow.

It is our wish that what you want for your own good, the new year will bring to you. We hope that peace, joy, love, time and opportunity, together with all the righteous desires of your hearts, will come to you in this NEW YEAR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scandinavian Centre
And Solglyt Lodge No. 143

Dear Sirs!

I am enclosing 2 dollar bill. 1 dollar as due to the paper. 1 dollar as a donation to help keep paper going.

Being I am 88 years old; was on 24th of August last, and not earning many any more, this will have to do.

Wishing all members of the valuable paper a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

I remain,

Elling P. Ulfsten
Room 20 Bonny Lodge
Bonnyville, Alberta

* * *

Dear Mr. Morris:

Your description of traveling and

sightseeing in Norway brings back nice memories.

It was a lovely flight, and the service was terrific.

Hope to go on another Charter flight in a couple of years.

Enclose cheque donation to the paper.

Sincerely,
Nelly Dittrich
13882 Ravine Drive
Edmonton 40, Alberta

Dear Mrs. Dittrich and others:

Thank you for your letter, kind words and donation. All are greatly appreciated. I hope the Scandinavian Centre and the newspaper will always bring you good things.

Happy New Year!

Leslie L. Morris
Managing Editor

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have changed your address recently and have not notified the Scandinavian Centre News, kindly do so immediately. It is necessary to notify us as well as the post office. The post office will only redirect your mail for only three months; thereafter, it is up to you to change your address with us.

Each month we have several

solution declare his office vacant and proceed to fill the vacancy by appointing another member of the Association to take his place.

(k) At any regular or special meeting of the Board a majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

One important aspect of the proper functioning of a Board of Directors is not stated in the Standard By Laws. This is the way in which Board members should react to controversial issues.

At a Director's meeting it is the duty and responsibility of each member of the Board to express his views on each question and vote in accordance with those views when a decision is to be made. However, once the question has been put, and the vote has been taken, the decision made by such vote becomes Board policy even if the individual Director does not agree with the decision reached. He should then be prepared to publicly support the decision made by the majority. If he feels so strongly that the question was not properly resolved, and is not prepared to abide by the ruling of the majority, he should then resign from the Board, rather than to become a dissident Director who by actions could easily undermine the confidence of the membership in their Board and its decisions.

papers returned to this office because people forget to change their address with us. We cannot send you the paper after that unless you notify us of your new address.

When giving us your new address, kindly tell us also your previous old address, and also if you are a member of The Scandinavian Centre or some other Scandinavian group.

Also if your household receives more than one paper for some unknown reason, would you kindly notify us so that we deliver only one.

Anyone knowing that a person who receives the paper has moved, kindly notify the person and make sure he has changed his address with us, or if you know it, send us the new address yourself, or notify us of the change, at least.

We have to pay double postage for all returned papers, so kindly notify us immediately. We also do not wish you to not receive the paper each month.

Send change of address to:

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Scandinavian Centre News
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Edmonton, Alberta

Thank You For Your Donation To The Paper

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Edmonton

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There is no subscription fee. Each member of The Scandinavian Centre receives a copy. Scandinavian ethnic groups, societies or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of names and addresses along with money at 6c a copy to cover postage.

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12204 Dovercourt Crescent 455-5570

MANAGING EDITOR

Mr. Leslie L. Morris

14220 - 125 Avenue — 455-4355

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Finnish Society:

Mrs. Anne Sahuri

16112 - 104 Ave. (50) — 489-7515

Icelandic Society:

Mrs. Lillian MacPherson

7870 Jasper Avenue - 422-7557

Leif Eiriksson Club:

Mr. Art Reykdal

8319 - 33 Avenue N.W.

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Edmonton

Mrs. Astrid Winquist, Edmonton

List of names of presidents of respective Scandinavian societies in Edmonton:

DANISH — Claus Jacobsen, 10981 - 164 St., 489-1494

FINNISH — Sirkka Ristola, 13013 - 82 St., 476-3483

ICELANDIC — Earl Valgardson, 6515 - 112A St., 434-6794

NORWEGIAN — Stan Hafso, 11739 - 38A Ave., 435-8964

SWEDISH — Lennart Petersson, 7412 - 87 Ave., 469-0259

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE — Gunnar Thorvaldson, 6012 - 101A Ave., 466-1570.

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By June Dokken

COMING EVENT

Saturday, January 15 -

Installation, Dinner and Dance:

Members and friends of Sons of Norway are invited to attend the smorgasbord, installation and dance, Sat., Jan. 15 at the Scandinavian Centre, Viking Room.

Social: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Smorgasbord: 7:00 p.m., followed by Installation of 1973 officers: 8:00 p.m.

Dance to follow.

Make your reservation early for the smorgasbord to give our ladies

a chance to prepare an adequate meal.

Tickets may be obtained from members of the board or by phoning Gladys Clark (455-5371) or Ragna Sivertsen (422-5990).

Price - \$3.00 per member; \$3.50 per non-member.

Solglyt Lodge No. 143 held its regular monthly meeting on Dec. 4 in the Nordic Room. Henry Logan, chairman of the nominating committee, presented a proposed slate of 1972 officers. They include:

- President - Gladys C. Clark
- Vice Pres. - Peter Hansen
- Secretary - Gordon Berdahl
- Asst. Sec. - Fred Nielsen
- Treasurer - Wallace Broen
- Financial Secretary - Ruth Logan
- Asst. Fin. Sec. - Olga McBride
- Counsellor - Stan Hafso
- Social Director - Godfrey Vold
- Asst. Social Dir. - Ragna Sivertsen, Evelyn Raesler
- Marshall - Alvin Searl
- Asst. Marshall - John Marko
- Inner Guard - Phil Ostad
- Trustees - Dick Larsen, Kalmar Amdam, Henry Logan
- Historian - Grace Cook
- Junior Director - Betty Travis
- Asst. Jr. Dir. - Elsie Driechel, Greta Elgstrand
- Librarian - Norman Jensen
- Cultural Director - Doreen Melsness
- Asst. Cultural Dir. - Astrid Hope, Margrethe Larsen
- Publicity Director - Elna Veis
- Sports Director - Bjorn Haagensen
- Asst. Sports Dir. - Lorraine Prazak, Thore Selvig
- Musician - Del Melsness

Following the election a very enjoyable evening of bingo was held with prizes galore.

Winners of turkeys were:

Sis. Ruth Zelensky and Bro. Del Melsness.

Other winners were:

Cindy McIntosh, Haldor Bukvi, Rodena Franklin, Mary Schumm, Mrs. Anderson, Kalmar Amdam, Anders Anderson, Gordon Berdahl, Warren Clark, Maizie Amdam, Mr. Zelensky, Carol Berdahl, Ted Franklin, Patricia McBride, Marian Iverson, Eleanor Anderson, Sig Sorenson, Joyce Hawkes, Helen Selvig, Emma Sonstenes and David Ingram.

Harvey Haugen called the bingo numbers loud and clear.

Thanks to Del Melsness and Thore Selvig for donation of prizes. The lunch was prepared and served by Ragna Sivertsen and her committee.

Eleven young people "graduated" from the junior lodge and joined the senior lodge forming their own youth group. The age limit is 16 to 20 years. We should be learning more about them in the next year.

Mrs. Molly Cooper is in the Glenrose Hospital and would appreciate visitors.

Mrs. Irene Hovde is at home and feeling fine.

THANKS

"At this time I would like to thank my assistants Sisters Ragna Sivertsen, Mollie Cooper and Dorothy Wilmore for their kind help this past year, and to thank the members who helped at our events to make 1971 a success.

"Many thanks to the members and their friends for attending.

"I would like this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year".

Gladys C. Clark
Social Director

RE. LUTEFISK SUPPER

We wish to thank all who so kindly helped at the Lutefisk supper, to all kitchen helpers, dining room workers, to our past queens in placing the guests, to all who took part in the program and thanks to the ladies for their donations of baking.

A big thank you to one and all who made the evening a success.

New Record

Olaf Sveen, Edmonton's answer to good Scandinavian music, has another LP record out called "Sounds of Scandinavia". It's on the London label again and its number is EBX4170. Ask for it at your music store.

Sig Sorenson, Honorary President of the Scandinavian Centre, has a write up on the back of the cover and in it he recommends visiting the beautiful country of Norway. The front cover has a beautifully colored picture as usual.

Olaf also informs us that starting in April, Sons of Norway Book and Arts Service will be handling his music folio "Scandinavian Dance Tunes". This is written music for the accordion which he wrote.

Iceland Garments Easy To Care For

Icelandic wool is thick, long and curly. Icelandic sheep are of centuries old Scandinavian stock allowed to roam unattended in all sorts of weather. As a result the sheep withstand bitter weather, wet and cold, and their wool is strong, resilient and resistant to dirt, water and temperature changes.

Garments of Icelandic lopi are easy to clean with ordinary detergents. Pour a small amount of it into warm water, immerse the garment and knead it gently a few times (do not use a washing machine). Rinse in the same way in warm water, then lay it on a towelled surface to dry at room temperature. When drying outdoors, remember to turn it inside out.

THE LOWDOWN (Continued from Page 1)

sus, the evidence indicated that over a ten-year period there had been an increasing polarization of incomes - the trend was for the 'haves' in the metro areas of Alberta to get relatively more, while the 'have-nots' get progressively less.

Can it be true? Is the milk going sour? The honey rancid?

Answers to questions such as these require hard facts, and for Alberta as a whole, hard, up-to-date facts in a number of critical socio-economic areas are hard to come by.

This is no longer true for Calgary and Edmonton. A solid factual base on which to found an in-depth socio-economic profile of these two cities has begun to emerge from a sample-survey undertaken as part of a research project conducted by the Alberta Human Resources Research Council.

DISCRIMINATION

Fifty-nine percent of immigrants reported the existence of ethnic discrimination in Alberta.

In the population of Calgary and Edmonton as a whole, those interviewed said they felt Indians were discriminated against most (57 percent), followed by Ukrainians (10 percent), Italians (4 percent), Negroes (5 percent), and all other minority groups (8 percent).

What form does the discrimination take?

The two main types of discrimination reported were "social barriers" (35 percent), and "employment" (32 percent). Discrimination in housing was named by 7 percent, and "personal and verbal joke" by 7 percent.

Asked if they themselves had experienced ethnic discrimination, 21 percent of all those surveyed said "yes".

MULTI-CULTURALISM

Multi-culturalism has become a favorite theme of political spokesmen at all three levels of government in Canada. If the indicators of the sample-survey of Calgary and Edmonton are anything to go by, it appears the subject is of far more concern to the politicians than it is to the people they are talking about.

For example: 94 percent said they were able to understand and communicate in English.

When children speak among themselves, 92 percent use only English. A very insignificant proportion use only their parent's native language.

The language used at work for almost all those surveyed was English.

Intermarriage among immigrants and Albertans is significantly high. Nineteen percent of immigrants named Canadian spouses, while 14 percent of Albertans married immigrant spouses (compared to 7 percent inter-provincial migrants who married immigrant spouses).

The Ukrainian communities in Calgary and Edmonton have been among the most vocal in speaking out on behalf of multi-culturalism and retention of their ethnic identity. Yet the data suggest that the group has a high intermarriage index and that only 1 percent of the Ukrainians communicate with their spouse in Ukrainian.

The German community has a much stronger showing in the language area - 16 percent communicate with their spouses in German, followed by the Dutch at 5 percent.

The language of choice used between parents and their children is another measure of the desire of any ethnic group to preserve its identity. On this measure the German community again showed up strongly (12 percent), but "Ukrainian only" measure a tiny 0.8 percent on the same scale.

In Calgary and Edmonton most bilingual children consider and use English as their native tongue. In speaking to their parents 5.3 percent use only German, while a small 0.4 percent use only Ukrainian.

In general, the survey suggests that the current discussions of multi-culturalism and the retention of ethnic identity are likely to find

their greatest (and possibly only) response among a small minority. The question does not appear to be of great relevance nor of any particular importance to large sections of the diverse ethnic communities of Calgary and Edmonton.

The indicators suggest that the young people now growing up within ethnic communities in Calgary and Edmonton appear to be relinquishing their ethnic ties in favor of a closer identification with the prevailing North American culture in which they find themselves.

TIES WITH OLD COUNTRY

The survey revealed that a significant number of immigrants maintain close ties with their homeland.

Almost one-half of all immigrants living in Calgary and Edmonton have visited their former country since arriving in Alberta. Of this number, 35 percent spent less than one month visiting their homeland, while 41 percent spent between one and four months.

A large proportion of immigrants in Edmonton and Calgary (41 percent) encourage others in their homeland to come to Alberta. Of those who encourage others to come, about half are willing to help them find jobs and accommodation, and 25 percent help to pay their passage here.

More than one-quarter of all immigrants and inter-provincial migrants stayed with friends or relatives on arrival in Edmonton or Calgary. Prior to their arrival, 37 percent of immigrants knew about Alberta from relatives and friends living here. Only about one-quarter of the immigrant group living in Calgary and Edmonton learned about Alberta through the public media or Canadian Government Information Service Overseas.

The most important single source of information about Alberta which reaches other countries is the immigrant living in Alberta. Dissemination from this source appears to have much greater impact than formal government information programs.

Because the major source of information came from people already living here, the majority of immigrants reported few difficulties in adjusting quickly to life in Alberta after they arrived. For immigrants language was the greatest single problem mentioned (51 percent). For the majority this was a temporary problem which, in most cases, had been resolved.

I believe it's generally true that a woman would rather love a weak man than a strong one, and would rather be loved by a strong man than by a weak one.

Loving a weak man makes her feel needed; being loved by a strong one makes her feel secure.

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VASA LODGE SKANDIA



By Joyce Hawkes

The December meeting was held on Dec. 4 with Lennart Petersson in the chair. Sister Margaret Eliasson, Grand Chairman of the 1974 Convention, was present.

Members reported sick were: Martha Dahl, Mildred Weiss, Grace Maxwell, Michael Skoog, Clarence Berg, John Bergstrom, John Jerratt.

Grey Cup tickets showed three winners from Edmonton, one from Calgary, one from Falun and one from Lethbridge.

Brother Markstrom will handle the sale of tickets for Lodge Skandia for Scandapades, so please see him and sell all you can.

MEETA will televise the Lucia at St. Joseph's hospital. However, this won't be seen until next Christ-

mas. Our Vasa Voices sang on this occasion also.

Our Cultural Leader, Brother Bengt Kristiansson, presented a very interesting report on cultural activities during the year. Our loom, from Sweden, has arrived and was on display at the meeting. Brothers Sund, Pierre and Anderson will put the loom together (finish building it, that is). Sisters McMaster, Petersson, Kay and Erickson will assist in making the loom operable.

Brother Elof Linden passed away on Nov. 18. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Signe, and son, David. The charter was draped and a minute of silence observed in remembrance of Brother Linden. Following is the list of officers for 1972:

Chairman — Peter Johnson
Assistant Chairman — Len Eliasson
Recording secretary — Doreen Nyroos
Ass't. Rec. Secretary — Joan Petersson
Financial Secretary — Linnea Lodge
Assistant Fin. Sec. — Evelyn Johnson
Treasurer — Don Johnson
Chaplain — Carol Banks
Master of Ceremonies — Ed Hinton
Asst. Mas. of Ceremonies — Mildred Weiss
Inner Guard — Herman Nelson
Outer Guard — John Anderson
Trustees — Eric Engvall, Martha Kay
Auditors — Sisters Hyde, Hinton and Ken Banks
Cultural Leader — Bengt Kristiansson
Sick Committee — Srs. Backstrom, Pierre, Samuelson, and Brs. Anderson and Hinton
Land Committee — motion tabled
Coffee Committee — Sr. Sund (a big thank you to Sr. Pierre who has done this for many years)
Sympathy Correspondent — Irma McMaster
Scandinavian News — Joyce Hawkes
District News Letter — Sr. Petersson
Public Relations — Sr. Lodge and the Pierres
Vasa Star Correspondent — Sr. Lodge

Lunch was provided by the Sisters of the Ladies Auxiliary and was enjoyed by all. This was follow-

ed by carol singing by the Vasa Voices and those present.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Take note that our January meeting will be on the second Saturday which will be Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Dania Room. New officers will be installed.

The Curling Club will sponsor their annual Bavarian Night on Jan. 22 at the Centre. The curlers will have tickets for sale.

February 5 — monthly meeting at the centre at 7 p.m.

VASA GLIMPSES

Sister Betty and Brother Magnus Pearson are spending most of December and January in Vancouver.

District Curling will be held in Camrose on March 25:

Swedish Lessons start on Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Centre.

Glen, Audrey and Margaret Eliasson attended the Lutefish supper in Calgary. Sr. Margaret also attended a Lucia festival in Lake Cowichan, B.C.

A group of Vasa members went to a Wine and Cheese Party on Dec. 1 which was sponsored by John Jarrett. The party was a financial success and a good time was had by all. Proceeds were in aid of the patients' summer fund at St. Joseph's hospital. I believe a summer trip is being planned to Jasper.

Your correspondent will spend a week at Christmas at her brother's home in Estevan, Sask. Her parents will be there as well.

Let us hope that all Vasa members had a happy and peaceful Christmas and that our new year will be the same. Happy New Year to all.

NOTE: Let me know where you went and what visitors you had over the holidays — Jan. 14 is the deadline.

"Lucia" And Christmas Celebrations In Sweden

By Ove Kampe

We don't know when we began to celebrate Christmas (jul) in Sweden. We do know, however, that a feast called "jul" was celebrated by the heathens, and many circumstances indicate that the celebration is very old.

The real reason for the celebration isn't exactly known. One theory says it was a feast to the remembrance of the dead. Another says it was a fertility feast, in order to get a good crop.

In the 300 years the fight between the heathens and Christians went, on the Christians finally won in the middle of the 12th century. The rituals of the heathens and the Christians have been mixed up and sometimes it is difficult to say if it is a heathen or a Christian one.

The enormous development of the society has naturally influenced the Christmas celebrations, too. The industrious society we live in today has commercialized the celebration. Typically for the Swedish, Christmas today means shopping, Christmas trees, Christmas presents and Christmas Fathers (jultomtar) outside the shops.

First I am going to say a little about what we call the "beginning" of Christmas. On the 13th of December we celebrate "Lucia's Day" — "Lucia" comes from the Latin word "lux" which means "light". She is said to have suffered the death of a martyr in the year of "Joy" in Syracuse on Sicily, Italy. She became patron saint of Syracuse. Many legends are told about her. One is that she was to be burnt at the stake, but the fire couldn't hurt her and they had to kill her with a sword.

Every year many girls are chosen to be Lucia in schools, factories, families and places of work. The papers have contests and the Lucia of Sweden is chosen. Lucia is clothed in white and has a candle crown on her head.

If she is Lucia of the family she gives the members of the family coffee and buns on a tray in bed. In hospital's Lucia also gives the patients coffee and a special sort of bun (lussekatt) which is baked especially for this day. Pupils often go to their teachers early in the morning and give them coffee and buns which they have brought.

In the evening Lucia and the other Lucia candidates (runners up who are also clothed in white and have candles in their hands) go by sleighs drawn by horses through the streets. The Lucia celebration is a bright point in the dark and cold December. Everybody is now longing for Christmas.

Christmas Eve is the great day, especially for the children. The whole day they are longing to open their presents. If they live in the country, they can ski with their fathers into the forest looking for a Christmas tree. If they live in a town, they have to buy one. They then put on things like candles, flags, tinsel, coloured balls, and so on. It was in the middle of the 19th century we began to bring the trees into the house. Before, they were placed outdoors.

The climax of Christmas celebration is in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, consisting of the Christmas dinner and the visit by Father Christmas. The dinner consists of ham, rice porridge and dried stockfish (fish which is dried and then put into water weeks before Christmas) as well as other goodies. In later years turkey has also been popular, but most Swedes prefer ham.

When it is time to have porridge you must make a rhyme before you start to eat. You can also put an almond into the porridge and the person who gets it must be able to rhyme.

At about five or six o'clock it is time for the presents. The father of the house asks a neighbour to be Father Christmas (jultomte). He puts on a mask with a long white beard and a red woolen cap and a fur coat. During the year the children have been told that if they are not good (kind), Father Christmas will not come to them with any presents. So it is a very exciting moment for the child when he hears Father Christmas coming and knocking on the door. Many children are very frightened as they don't know it is a human being. They have been told that he lives in a large forest and that he is very old.

When he comes inside the door he asks if there are any kind children at home. The children answer, of course: "Yes!" He now takes out the presents from his sack and reads the names written on them. The children thank the kind Father Christmas for the presents.

When he has gone, they dance around the Christmas tree and many carols are played and sung. In the evening the children go on playing with their presents.

Because children become afraid of Father Christmas, many of them are now told that there is no real Father Christmas. This habit of giving presents has been common since the end of the 19th century.

On Christmas Day many people get up very early to go to church. The early mass (julotta) begins at six o'clock and the churches are crowded with people.

In earlier times they went to church by sleighs drawn by horses. As it was very dark they had torches. Nowadays, they put torches outside the houses before they go to church and it is a very fascinating sight. The rest of the day is very boring and nothing happens. You just stay at home. In later years, however, there has been a little change. Now you can visit friends on Christmas Day, too. The day after Christmas Day is also a holiday. Nothing especially happens then, either.

Twenty days after Christmas Eve (January 13th) the celebration is definitely over. Then children go to each other and "dance out" the Christmas. They take off the things from the Christmas tree, and then it is thrown outside. But, then, of course, after eleven months go by, you can celebrate "Lucia" again.

Scandinavian Seminar Accepts Applications

Scandinavian Seminar is now accepting applications for its study program in Denmark, Finland, Norway, or Sweden for the academic year 1972-73. This living-and-learning experience for college students, graduates and other adults features an initial 3 week language course, followed by a family stay. For the major part of the year the student lives and studies among Scandinavians at Folkehoyskole (residential school for continuing adult education) or some more specialized institution.

For further information write to Scandinavian Seminar, 140 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.

A 500 YEAR OLD MERCHANT SHIP has been found during excavations in Oslo, providing new knowledge about ship building in Norway in the Middle Ages. The 12-13 meter long ship was too fragmented to be reconstructed and displayed in a museum, but enough remained to reveal a definite kinship with the graceful lines of the Vikings' longships.

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COMING EVENTS IN NORWAY 1972

January-February

KINGDOM OF NORWAY

1100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

This is the greatest event in Scandinavia throughout 1972, when all Norway will celebrate the 1100th birthday of the Kingdom, founded in 872 by King Harald the Fair-haired (approx. 860-940), who united Norway into one kingdom upon the final battle in Håfrsford near Stavanger. Celebrations will be highlighted on May 17 - Norway's Constitution Day - but other events will take place throughout the summer.

January 1972

JAN. - APRIL

Norway's Ski Season. Throughout the winter - from Christmas until after Easter - there are regular programs consisting of carnivals, dances, excursions and ski competitions at several winter sports resorts in Norway, especially at Voss, Geilo, Lillehammer and Dombas.

JANUARY
International fur auctions in Oslo. Many foreign buyers. Famous Norwegian specialties are Saga mink and blue fox.

JANUARY 8
Automobile rally starting from Kristiansand, organized by NAF.

JAN. 8 - 9
Norwegian speed skating championship for men at Tonsberg for women at Brandbu.

JAN. 9
Monolith Ski Race in Oslo; international 15 km cross-country ski race in Frogner park, right in the very heart of Oslo, Norway's winter sports capital.

JANUARY
"Beech Tree Ski Race" in Larvik; Nordic cross-country ski competition for ladies and gentlemen, racing on flood-lit trail.

JAN. 16
Norwegian ski championship, special ski jumping competition from Flubergbakken at Odnes.

JANUARY
Curling Week at Lillehammer, incl. Birkebeimer Cup.

JAN. - MARCH
World's greatest herring fisheries in the Silver Ocean off Alesund in Norway's Fjord Country.

JANUARY - MARCH
The great "Lodde" fishery off Finnmark. Large shoals of lodde, which belongs to the salmon species, seek towards the coast, pursued by huge numbers of cod, which are caught by the ton.

February 1972

FEBRUARY
Curling tournament at Oppdal.

FEBRUARY
Agricultural Week at Sjolyst in Oslo.

FEB. 5 - 6
Junior speed skating championship at Kristiansand.

FEB. 8
Sun Pageant in Narvik. Although the Midnight Sun never dips below the horizon during the summer in Arctic Norway, there is perpetual darkness in winter. When the sun reappears in February, this is the signal for celebrations and general merriment.

FEBRUARY
"Roros Fair" in the ancient mining town of Roros, combined with annual sales exhibition. Roros Tourist Office, Roros.

FEB. 15 - 19
"Kongsberg Fair", held annually for over 200 years in the old "silver mine" town of Kongsberg. Agricultural exhibition, fun fair and general merriment. Kongsberg Tourist Office, Kongsberg.

FEBRUARY
Winter Sports Festival at Lillehammer; grand fancy dress ball, fashion show, tourist competitions, folklore evening.

FEB. 14 - 15
Athletic competitions for men and women in Drammen.

FEB. 19 - 20
World Speed Skating Championship for men at Bislet Stadion in Oslo.

FEB. 19 - 20
Norwegian Alpine Ski Championship for boys and girls at Fagernes.

FEB. 25 - 27
Norwegian Alpine Ski Championship for juniors, the "young juniors" at Voss, the "elderly juniors" at

Ski Vacations In Norway 1972

The new trend in Norway this season is to put more emphasis on cross-country skiing than on alpine skiing, although both schools of thought are very well catered for. Ski touring has been practiced in Norway since Viking times; Norwegians still prefer cross-country skiing, whilst American, Canadian and British skiers favor downhill racing or slalom. But even among the alpine skiers, there is now a distinct trend towards more cross-country skiing.

Many new programs are featured among the tour offerings for 1972. The famous Norwegian ski champion, Stein Eriksen, will conduct a special tour to Voss and Geilo, leaving New York by SAS on March 4. New package tours combine ski vacations in Norway with ski vacations in the Swiss and Austrian Alps, for instance one week in Geilo and another week in Innsbruck, etc., flying there and back by SAS.

Conducted cross-country ski tours will be arranged daily in Oslo's open-air country, and the Norwegian Touring Club will again arrange the popular ski tours with dog-sled teams, skiing from one mountain lodge to another, and the club also offers a ski touring week at Hallingskeid. The most inexpensive ski vacations in Europe are offered by the Norwegian Youth Hostel Association at their lodges in Geilo and Lillehammer.

Information on ski vacations in Norway are available from Scandinavian Airlines Sales Offices in Canada and from all Travel Agencies.

Meraker.
FEB. 26 - 27
Norwegian ski championship, Nordic skiing, for boys at Graud-Hadeland, for girls at As near Oslo.

FEB. 26 - 27
Athletic tournament East Germany-Norway for women at Sarpsborg.

FEB. 27
"Masqued Ball" at the Norwegian Opera in Oslo, followed by dinner at Bristol Hotel, the social event of the season.

LEIF EIRIKSSON CLUB

By Art Reykdal

They came through the mist of a foggy November night and brought June sunshine to members of the Leif Eiriksson Club, gathered in the band room of U. of C.'s Calgary Hall.

When I first heard of the Saga Singers, my mind conjured up a picture of a bunch of broad-bosomed females hitting high C in the manner of Maggie Jiggs and her pals, and choking on their upper dentures in the process. But, alas, for my preconceived notions. They went that way.

The choir obviously enjoys singing. And their enjoyment is contagious. I soon found my toes tapping the beat as the singers went through a series of diverse melodies that made me want to join in the chorus. Fortunately for all concerned, I restrained myself. But it was only an innate sense of dignity that kept me from dancing in the aisle . . . well, the fact that I can't dance had something to do with it, too.

Emcee Don Shaw laughed at his own efforts to pronounce the names of some of the Icelandic songs, but he needn't have done so. I can't even remember them. Of course, I could have taken notes, but I was too entranced with the choir. Anyway, they'd look odd in print without the proper Icelandic type.

Any time the Saga Singers want to come to Calgary again, the Leif Eiriksson Club will welcome them.

SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM has presented the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. with its first female pilot's uniform, for inclusion in the Smithsonian's permanent collection of the wearing apparel of the world's air and space notables. Turi Wideroe made history in 1968 when she was chosen for training to join the SAS as the first commercial airline pilot in the Western World. Since then she has served as Flight Officer.

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NORDSTJERNAN NEWS

By Phyllis Tapio

The final meeting of 1971 was at the meeting was the election of held at the home of Ronald Holmlund officers for the 1972 term. Those lund on Nov. 27. The main business elected were:

Chairman — Henry Sjogren
Vice Chairman — George Sjogren
Recording Secretary — Mabel Tapio
Asst. Recording Sec. — Annie Holmlund
Finance Secretary — Bertha Edin
Asst. Finance Sec. — Harry Holmlund
Treasurer — Clifford Robins
Chaplain — Dan Edin
Master of Ceremonies — Helen Havanka
Asst. M.C. — Anna Bloedel
Standard Bearers — Mona Robins, Rose Krause
Inner Guard — Charlie Tapio
Outer Guard — John Remin
Sick Committee — Lydia Remin, Anna Bloedel, Wilma Stone, Karen Thorsen, George Brown, Clifford Robins, Gus Tabler
Culture Leaders — George Sjogren, Harry Holmlund, Ronald Holmlund, Bertha Edin, Phyllis Tapio, Valerie Flinkman
Auditors — John Holmlund, Mel Gabrielson, Lydia Remin
Trustee Elected — George Brown

Guests at the home of John and Annie Holmlund on Nov. 27 were: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pearson from Norden Lodge, Meeting Creek. We were glad to see them stay to attend our meeting that evening.

On Nov. 20, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jensen attended the Sons of Norway Lutfisk supper at Camrose. They also attended a Lutfisk supper at Kingman on Dec. 3.

Thanks to the great weather, our

annual Lutfisk Supper, held on Dec. 4, was a real success. Among the many in attendance were members from Vasa Lodge Skandia, Buford Lodge and Norden Lodge.

Congratulations to Jack Watt of Falun who held the winning Grey Cup Pool ticket. His score of 14 - 11 was not only the final score, but also the third quarter score, making him a double winner.

Henry Sjogren was honored at a banquet as one of the coaches of the "Falun Squirts" softball team who won the provincial title for another year. Dwight Flinkman, son of Bill and Jessie Flinkman, was a member of this team.

Sven Sjogren celebrated his 70th birthday Nov. 28.

Lawrence and Shirley Dool (nee Shirley Ecklund) have moved into their new home.

Charlie Tapio has been visiting with his daughter and son-in-law, Darlene and Jack Armstrong, in Kitimat, B.C.

Carl Hanson is back from Toronto with his Percheron colt that placed fourth in a class of thirteen. Congratulations, Carl!

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Thorsen and their daughter, Betty Watson, and children will be flying to Ottawa to spend Christmas with Ken Thorsen and family.

Now that the Swedish text books have arrived, lessons will begin after the New Year.

The next meeting will be held Jan. 8 at Lone Ridge Hall. The business is installation of officers and it is hoped Buford Drill team will be in attendance.

Travelling In NorSweDen

By Leslie L. Morris

Continuing on our "Grand Tour of Oslo" we left the vast works of Gustav Vigeland and boarded our buses at the far end of Frogner Park. Our final destination was the Holmenkollen Ski Jump.

I was still goggle eyed by the fantastic sculptures we had just witnessed and I made up my mind to return and spend more time examining the many fascinating sights there.



Holmenkollen Ski Jump

Leaving the park we headed for Holmenkollenveien which takes us north of the city to the famous ski jump. It's located 1,460 ft. above sea level and it took us about half an hour to ride up there.

We stopped in front of the wooden building housing the Ski Museum at the side of the ramp. The Holmenkollen Ski Jump was first built in 1892. Since then it has undergone a number of major alterations and enlargements to keep up with the development of the sport. The record jump of 301 ft. was made by Topi Mattila of Finland in 1969.

The Holmenkollen ski jumping competition (which is held only one day a year) is known amongst skiers throughout the world as the high point of the skiing season. In 1922 and 1923 King Olav V, as Crown Prince, participated in the contest at Holmenkollen. The Olympic Winter Games were staged there in 1952, watched by 130,000 spectators.

The top of the run is 184 feet above ground. The tower is open to the public and there is an elevator for a short way up then there

are stairs to the top of this excellent viewpoint.

First, however, because we were at the entrance to the Ski Museum, we decided to see what was there. It was first opened in 1923 and at that time it was the first ski museum in the world. It displays an exhibition of the history of skiing. In addition it contains the Polar equipment that Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen used on their world famous expeditions.

During our visit we were able to follow through the ages the history of skiing beginning with the oldest known picture of a skier, a 4,000 year old rock carving discovered at Rodoy in the northern part of Norway, and the oldest ski which is approximately 2,500 years old.

Above the museum is the Holmenkollen Restaurant, so Beth and I went up and had a drink and bite to eat. As the top of the ramp was 184 ft. and most of it was by climbing stairs, we needed the rest and nourishment. I was determined to reach the top and take some movies.

We sat out on a sort of patio and looked down the ski jump and, as it was summer, was bare, and at the bottom was a small lake or body of water. It was hard to tell how big it was because it was so far down.

After our rest we went over to the base of the ramp and finally climbed to the top. It was very crowded with tourists and took some time to reach it but when we did it was a beautiful sight. We could see the city of Oslo surrounded by the sea which was the Oslo Fjord. It was a nice day and wasn't even very windy up there.

Coming back down we got caught in the traffic and over-stayed our time and when we got out at the bottom, we could hear the buses honking their horns for us. They wouldn't leave without us so we scurried puffing up the incline and climbed in sheepishly. I don't know how long we kept them waiting but I was glad they didn't leave us stranded way out there.

On our way down the mountain the bus stopped at the bottom of the ski run to allow us to take pictures. Although it was against the sun I got some good movies.

On the way back to the pier where we had started, we drove down Bygdoy Alle and past the Norum Hotel where we were staying and I felt more at home in Oslo being able to recognize

something.

It was around 6:00 o'clock when we left the touring bus and we thanked our hostess and guide, Christine, and were sorry to have to go.

It was supper time so Beth and I went to a restaurant down town and gayly enjoyed our meal as we mulled over our fantastic day of sight seeing.

As we travelled by bus back to the Norum Hotel we were tired but happy, and we went to bed knowing we had truly seen many of the best things of Oslo.

The next day was Sunday, July 18, and after breakfast we moved across the street to the Hotel Pension Hall which was more reasonably priced but still very comfortable.

As we were close to Frogner Park, we decided to walk there and have breakfast on the open patio cafeteria. Although I wanted a beer, we had to wait until church was out before they would serve it.

It was a little cloudy and dull with the humidity quite high and as I read the thermometer I had to convert it from centigrade to fahrenheit - it was just 70.

Instead of going through the park we decided we'd go and visit some relatives of a friend of mine who lived just outside Oslo. It was Sunday and we thought it would be a good day for visiting.

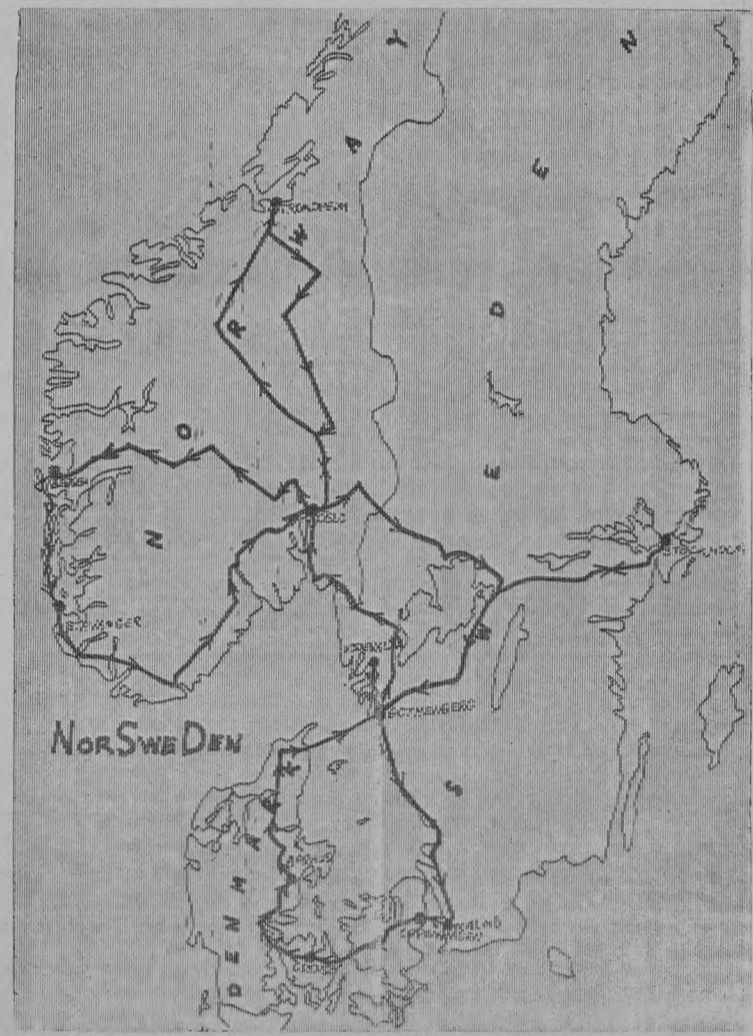
We were going to visit Clara Dybedal, sister of my friend, Haakon Vik, whose uncle was the famous sculptor, Ingebrigt Vik. They were brought up around Bergen in which city a statue of Edvard Grieg stands which was done by him. He is now dead but there is a museum of his works at Oystre Hardanger.

We caught a bus just outside our hotel going to Slependen, Sandvika. It was a pleasant ride in the country and on our way we passed the Art Museum built by Sonja Henie's husband. We didn't go in because neither Beth nor I are too interested in paintings.

When we reached our destination we were very hospitably received. As well as Mrs. Dybedal, her husband, and daughter, there was another sister and her husband there. Two couldn't speak any English, two hadn't used it for years, and the young girl spoke quite well. We got along marvelously and spent a very pleasant afternoon visiting with Norwegian friends.

We didn't know they were going to serve dinner, and we had just eaten before we went, but Beth enjoyed some ice cream and cake, and I had a drink of wine.

It was there that I learned that



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the brown goats milk cheese (geit-ost) is the most famous Norwegian cheese, and we tried it for the first time.

Later they drove us back to our hotel which was quite a long way into town. We went to bed that night thinking how Norwegian people are so much like we are and how friendly and hospitable they are. If it weren't for the difference in language we would have thought we were right at home.

The next two days we spent in Oslo, we explored the city centre, looking at the stores (shops), eating in different restaurants, and generally seeing the sights. Oslo is clean for a sea port, as are all the Scandinavian cities. The downtown area is concentrated in quite a small area. There were so many places we didn't go to, but you can't see a city like Oslo in a few days. At least we know where to go the next time we land there.

There are many things to see and anyone going there just has to go to the Tourist Information Bureau to learn of the many things to do.

There was one thing we did do, though. I wanted to take my wife to one of the best places in town to wine, dine and dance. We chose Dronningen's, advertised as "The Queen-of Restaurants" at the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club.

We were not very far away at our hotel and we took a taxi and went around Frognerkillen Inlet, past the Norsk Folkemuseum and out to the floating yacht club at the end of Hukaveny.

There are three different rooms: Batdekket, with its superb views of the sail-flecked Oslo Fjord with international cuisine, Dinner-Music between 5 and 6 p.m., non-stop dancing from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. It has an open terrace fronting the yacht harbour which opens at 3 p.m.

Beth and I went directly to the Sekstanten, the sophisticated Cocktail lounge which has the ideal venue for the discriminating visitor in search of light refreshment. It has an all-round view of the fjord and encircling hills. They have dancing from 10 p.m. to closing at 12:30 p.m., but we were just going to have a few drinks as an appetizer then go to the Captain's Cabin.

The Captain's Cabin is the gourmet's rendez-vous, where choice food and select wines can be enjoyed undisturbed by music and dancing. Nautical interior, soft lights.

However, after a few drinks we wanted to eat and have music, and, of course my wife wanted to dance, so we went to the Batdekket, where we had the most delicious meal and a very entertaining modern group of musicians and a girl singer who could sing (it seemed to me) in any language. When she sang in English you'd think she was an American, with not a trace of accent.

This was our real night out on the town of Oslo and Beth and I really enjoyed it. She even got me up to dance - it must have been the wine.

We were leaving on the train the next morning, Tues., July 20, for Trondheim in the north of Norway, at 9 a.m. and although we were late getting to bed, we couldn't wait for the morning to come to be on our adventurous way.

BUFORD NEWS

By Wanda Markstedt

Election of officers was the highlight of the November meeting of Buford Lodge No. 577. New Positions are as follows:

- President — Bob Pearson
- Vice Pres. — Ray Pearson
- Recording Secretary — Betty Hanson
- Vice Rec. Sec. — Elva Modin
- Financial Secretary — Florence Pearson
- Vice Fin. Sec. — Dolores Johnson
- Treasurer — Floyd Modin
- Chaplain — Tony Lefsrud
- Mistress of Ceremonies — Doris Modin
- Vice M.C. — Wanda Markstedt
- Cultural Leader — Tony Lefsrud

A welcome guest at the meeting was District Master John Holmlund and his wife, Annie, with greetings from Alberta District No. 18.

The "Learn Swedish" books have arrived so it is expected the new Cultural Leader will organize classes in the New Year.

Installation of officers will be carried out by the drill team under the direction of Albin Markstedt.

The annual Lodge Christmas party was held at Willow Creek Community Centre and was a lot of fun for everyone. Santa Claus made an appearance presenting each child with a gift. Oranges,

Congratulations to Glen and Darlene Pearson on the birth of their new son (8 lbs. 9 oz.) at the Leduc Municipal Hospital.

Roger Gunsch has been out hunting this fall with some success, while Fjaller Johnson and Alf Hayem are anxiously awaiting the fishing season to start.

Bert and Florence Pearson have recently entertained an old friend from Sweden. His name is Fred Nelson.

A Happy and Bountiful New Year to everyone.

Norway For Ski Vacations This Winter

NORWAY — "Where skiing began" — is again preparing for a booming winter sports season, which opens at Christmas and lasts until after Easter. The main ski resorts are situated in the mountain ranges along the Bergen railroad and the Dovre railroad, where snow conditions are unfailingly ideal, and the sunshine is really warm. Norway is certainly more solar than polar!

Skiing instruction in Norway is of a high standard and well organized. All leading winter sports resorts have ski schools — also for children — and all instructors teach by the same methods. Skis and equipment can be hired or you may buy what you need in Oslo or Bergen. There is a great variety of ski slopes — for experts as well as for novices — and most are served by modern ski lifts. Norway's modern hotels provide fine accommodation, from top-grade resort hotels via inexpensive tourist lodges to cut-rate youth hostels, the latter being very popular among teenagers.

For free folders on ski vacations in Norway, write to Scandinavian National Tourist Offices, 505 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017 or 612 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90017.

The book develops Iceland's activities in NATO during its twenty years of membership, including the relations between the Icelanders and the American Defence Force, the so-called "Cold War", the dispute over a US forces television station, the influence of Iceland's trade with the Eastern bloc etc. Finally there are chapters explaining Iceland's strategic importance and the present attitudes of the political parties to NATO and the Defence Force.

A Viking age grave which has been excavated at Tokke in Telemark this summer is described by archaeologists as the most significant find since the discovery of the Oseberg ship in 1904. The grave dates back to the second half of the tenth century and has yielded some 200 items, including weapons, textiles, jewelry, agricultural tools, carpentry tools, kitchen utensils and a variety of others.

Iceland is a newly independent State which did not even have a Foreign Service until 1940. After only 5 years of independence Iceland joined NATO and rejected neutrality, which is so dear to most newly independent states.

Finally, alone among the 15, Iceland is an unarmed nation having neither army, navy nor airforce. Nevertheless she turned her back on a tradition of 400 years of non-militarism when she joined the military alliance of NATO.

A Few Facts About Iceland

Size: 39,600 sq. miles
Situation: In the North Atlantic, 2½ hours by jet from London, 5½ from New York.
Population: 204,000 inhabitants.

CLIMATE:

As the island is encircled by the Gulf Stream, the climate is comparatively mild. There are no extremes in the temperature; in Reykjavik the average temperature in July is about 52° F; in January it is about 30° F. There is no air pollution.

GEOGRAPHY:

Mountainous for the most part. Habitation mostly in coastal areas and valleys. Europe's biggest glacier is in Iceland and numerous volcanoes and spouting hot springs.

OCCUPATION:

Fisheries and fish industry represent some 90% of the export. Also important are agriculture and industry.

CULTURE:

Culturally and ethnically the Icelanders are of Nordic background and today's society is closely related to those in other Scandinavian countries.

CLOTHING:

Except for a raincoat and good footwear, no special clothing is needed for an ordinary visit. For travel into the interior, warm clothes, windbreakers and heavy boots are essential.

REYKJAVIK:

The capital of Iceland, is situated on a low peninsula in Vaxa Bay in the southwest part of the country. It did not begin to emerge as a city until the end of the 18th century, when small industries and the fisheries began their development. From a population of 200 in 1786, its inhabitants have now grown to approximately 90,000. As a modern city, Reykjavik offers its visitors a wide choice of hotels, restaurants, theatres and cinemas plus a variety of shopping, museums, swimming pools and sight-seeing.

BOOKS

Iceland From Neutrality To NATO Membership

By Benedikt Grondal

(Universitetsforlaget, Oslo 1971, 106 pages, N.Kr. 24)

From NATO Review

This booklet, which appears in the English language as number 11 in the Scandia books series, has been made possible by a NATO Research Fellowship. The author is a member of the Icelandic Parliament and Vice-President of the Social Democratic Party of that country. He is also editor of a leading Icelandic daily newspaper.

This is the story of how and why Iceland became a member of the

North Atlantic Alliance. The author discusses the security problems of Iceland over the centuries and relates how, in 1918, Iceland declared herself "neutral for ever", an eternity that lasted for 22 years. The author explains why Iceland has been nicknamed NATO's "reluctant ally" or described as "a misfit in NATO". Indeed, Iceland's membership in NATO has required a very radical departure from the past: alone among the 15 mem-

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WHAT WEIGHT PROBLEM?

Overweight people are less likely to commit suicide or suffer severe mental disease than thin people or those of average weight. — News item.

* * *

It's really not so bad, at that, To have a little extra fat. The person who is overweight Might just as well accept his fate. Without that fat, he might live longer, Be somewhat healthier and stronger, But then again his nerves might jangle And be on edge and in a tangle. And so he lives a tranquil life, Unworried by his work or wife. He may be fat from feet to face, But still he's not a mental case.

Richard Armour

If all our misfortunes were laid in one common heap, whence everyone must take an equal portion, most people would be contented to take their own and depart.

Socrates

DANIA DOINGS



By Vera Nielsen

First, we wish all our members and friends a happy and prosperous New Year and we sincerely hope 1972 will be a good year for you and yours.

Jan. 8 will be our New Year's Party and we shall have open faced sandwiches like last year. Eating will be at 7:00 p.m. and dancing from 9. The tickets will be on sale from any of the board members or you can phone 489-1494 or 454-5438. Don't delay. Talk it over with your friends and get a party together, then phone for your tickets at \$4.50 per person. Please come and enjoy a wonderful evening.

Jan. 18 will be the first Whist-drive in the New Year, so come to this and enjoy a social evening. All

are welcome at 75c per person.

BIG NEWS

Keep the date Feb. 18 in mind as we shall have a real big Carnival Nite with games and fun for everybody — BUT, you will have to help by coming in a costume — anyway you prefer — from the Gay Nineties or from year 2000. Just use your imagination — from fairytales or whatever you can think about. Wouldn't it be fun to see everybody in costume? And by the way, if you come in costume, you will be let in free of charge. We have big things in mind and of course hope for a real good evening, different than before, but, please, do your best to help us.

News from the Danish Church

By Pastor O. Filtenborg

THE NEW BOARD

After the election of new board members at the annual meeting and after the board has constituted itself, Kris Kristensen is president, Niels Gran - vice-president, Sigrid Larsen - secretary, Nels Andersen - treasurer, Ove Klostergaard, Frovin Sorensen, and Erik Thomsen are the deacons, and Erik Muller, Toni Kozculab, and Esther Svendgaard are trustees.

42nd ANNIVERSARY

Sun. Jan. 30 the congregation will celebrate its 42nd anniversary. It will be done with an evening service in English with Pastor Raymond Olson from St. Albert as guest speaker. After the service there will be a social in the basement.

BAPTISMAL

Birgitte Winther Andersen, daughter of Jens Oluf and Lilly Andersen.

WEDDINGS

Poul R.S. Rasmussen and Margaret Vittetoe, both of Edmonton. Dennis A. Tucker and Inger Olsen, both of Edmonton.

And then we wish all of you a Happy New Year.

Cranberry Bread

- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1¼ cups orange juice
- 1 tablespoon grated orange rind
- 3 cups Bisquick
- ¾ cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup chopped cranberries (fresh or frozen; if frozen, do not thaw)

Heat the oven to 350 F. Mix sugar, egg, orange juice rind, and Bisquick. Beat vigorously 30 seconds. Batter may still be lumpy. Stir in nuts and cranberries. Pour into well-greased loaf pan, 9" x 5" x 3". Bake 55 to 60 minutes, or until toothpick stuck into center comes out clean. Crack in top is typical. Remove from baking pan. Cool before slicing.

Peanut Brittle

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup white corn syrup
- ½ cup water
- 1 cup peanuts (plain or salted)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon soda

Cook the sugar, syrup, and water to the softball stage, add the peanuts, and continue cooking until the syrup is light brown and gives a hard crack test. Remove from heat, add the vanilla, butter, and then the soda. Mix lightly and pour onto a buttered cookie sheet.

DENMARK

Some famous Danes you ought to know

By Vera Nielsen

Jensen, Johannes V. (born 1873). Writer — Born in Jutland. Studied medicine, but gave up his studies to devote himself wholly to literature and has, up till now, produced some 60 volumes, all bearing the impressions of his numerous and long travels in all the quarters of the world, his extensive and thorough studies and his great talent for language-renewal. His first books — "Danes" (1896) and "Einar Elkaer" (1898) — where he argues that the Danish mind is split, because "we feel with Rousseau, but think with Edison", arouse more than ordinary interest, and with his great historic novel "The Fall of the King" (1901) he establishes his reputation as a great writer. In quick succession follow now his books "Himmerland Tales", "Intermezzo", "Gothic Renaissance"; he declares war on aesthetics and finds the power of man's spirit expressed in the constant technical development. His novels "Madame d'Ora" and "The Wheel" bear throughout the stamp of his stay in the U.S.A. and expound his personal evolutionistic theories as to racial types and races.

"The Long Voyage", a novel of evolutionary history, planned on very broad lines, deals, briefly speaking, with the evolution of the Northern Race from the Glacial Age until the advent of Christianity. In many ways he has acted as the driving power where it was a question of influencing public opinion for the purpose of realizing national or Scandinavian aspirations. Johannes V. Jensen is the greatest representative of that change in taste and outlook on life which sets in about the beginning of the century; politically and literarily he is a freelance; in 1945 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

VIKING

Not all Viking Voyages were for plunder. Some were for trade, others for exploration. For example, the Vikings settled in newly discovered Iceland and established a democratic government there. They also founded a colony in Greenland.

About the year 1000, Leif Ericson sailed west from Greenland with 35 men. They finally reached a pleasant place where game, grass, and salmon abounded. They called this Vinland. It was really the discovery of America, for what they called Vinland is now Newfoundland — and this voyage was made 500 years before the "Earl Patterson, 11, Beaver" voyage of Columbus. Although they came first as pirates and plunderers, the Vikings made an important contribution to the lands they invaded. They had a strong feeling of personal equality and individual freedom, and this became part of the heritage of England and France and the colonies that they founded in America.

A book "Park Country" tells that the first Icelandic families settled near Markerville in 1888. They named the place Tindastoll after a mountain in Iceland. In 1902 the name was changed to Markerville after C.P. Marker, LL.D., the Dairy Commissioner of Alberta.

A salesman met a girl whom he liked very much. Because he hadn't been acquainted with her background, he thought he should have an investigation made. When the Detective Agency sent their report that her reputation was completely flawless except that recently she had been seen several times in the company of a salesman of questionable character.

American astronauts carried out some of their "moon" training on the Askja lava beds in Iceland.

SPORTS CORNER

By Ole Jensen

Dania is now playing in the indoor soccer league in the Kinsman Fieldhouse.

The first game was played Dec. 3 against North W. Unit. Dania lost 3 - 1. The goal for Dania was scored by Walter Mlinavitsch.

The next game was against N.A.I.T. on Dec. 7 and Dania won this game 4 - 0. Goals were scored by Walter Mlinavitsch - 1, Otto Berg - 2 and Dennis Bowers - 1.

Dania played an exhibition game Dec. 10 against Universe. The game ended in a 2 - 2 tie. Goals were scored by Horst Daffner and Walter Mlinavitsch.

On Dec. 12 Dania played against Troyans, and Dania won by 4 - 2. Fritz Wolf scored 3 goals and Adolph Schuh 1.

HERE'S

Sex, Crime And Pornography

From "D Danish Journal"

Denmark was the first country in the world to permit the unrestricted production of pornographic material and its sale to persons over 16 years of age. The measure, applied to written material in 1967 and extended to pictures and other objects in 1969, created strong interest abroad in the 'Danish experiment', which a minority of Danes thought was a fateful step towards the degradation of moral values.

A study by a Danish psychologist, Berl Kutschinsky, of the effects of this liberalization, has failed to confirm the minority view, and in fact has shown that the passage of the new laws has been followed by a decline in some categories of sexual crime. Kutschinsky's report, published at the end of 1970, notes that Copenhagen police statistics recorded a drop of 79.8 per cent in voyeurism, 58.2 per cent in exhibitionism, 62.7 per cent in sexual intercourse with minors and 69.1 per cent in other sexual offences against young girls between 1959 and 1969. The overall index of heterosexual crimes recorded by the Copenhagen police dropped from 100 in 1959 to 35 in 1969 (100 = 895 cases).

Since the start of sexual liberation about 1960 and its culmination with the legislation of 1969, the inference that the removal of restrictions was responsible for the overall reduction in sexual crimes was widely drawn by the press. Press reports indicated that non-sexual crime had risen steadily in the same period.

Kutschinsky does not entirely support this view in his analysis, but concludes that a number of factors are involved.

In some cases, particularly exhibitionism, a change in attitude by the victim is mainly responsible, he thinks. A more liberal attitude means that women are less likely to report exhibitionists.

Voyeurism, on the contrary, has fallen considerably. The index of recorded cases dropped from 100 (99 cases) in 1959 to 20 in 1969, and Kutschinsky says that during recent years 'Denmark must have been something of a paradise (for peepers)', with free access to colour magazines and films, and with clubs showing both blue films and 'live' performances.

In another category, sexual assault on girls under 15 (short of rape or intercourse), Kutschinsky concludes that pornography has become a harmless alternative for potential offenders. The index of offences in this category, comprising 29 per cent of all heterosexual offences recorded, fell from 100 (282 cases) in 1959 to 33 in 1969.

Finally the report stresses that its conclusions are tentative, and will have to be re-examined on the basis of a fuller analysis. S.D.

The fellow who blows his horn the loudest is usually in the biggest fog.

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SCANDAPADES '72 - SAT., FEBRUARY 26th

RONNING LODGE

By Edith Molstad

The General Election was held on Dec. 15 and the new president for Ronning Lodge is Dr. A. R. Hoefling.

The Christmas Party was held on Dec. 18 with a jolly time had by all.

The General Meeting and installation of officers will be held Wed., Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. at the Camrose Lutheran College Cafeteria. There will be a pot-luck supper and a guest speaker. It is also hoped that there will be an interesting film on Norway.

Cross country skiing lessons started during the Christmas holidays. Anyone else interested in taking skiing lessons, please contact Bev Servold in Camrose.

There is still time to get into the Norwegian language classes. Contact George Moi.

Mr. Tom Coultis of Camrose was winner of the Norwegian sweaters raffled by the Drill Team.

Bestamor Hobby Corner will be having a draw on a quilt. Tickets will be available soon.

Finland Alumni

From Look At Finland

The standard at Finnish Universities is on par with the rest of the world, sometimes even higher.

More than 300 students from all continents go to Finland every year. They make a highly varied group, both as regards nationality and the subjects they study. Most of the foreign students remain in Helsinki, but other popular places are Tampere University, where you can obtain a degree in sociology in 1½ to 4 years, Heinola Rheumatics Hospital and Oulu University.

Most of the students who go to Helsinki University study the Finnish language, but many are interested in Finnish politics. Helsinki University of Technology is also popular, especially the department of architecture, and there are at present a number of Icelanders, who cannot become graduate architects or engineers in their own country.

A few years ago the foreign students in Finland founded an association called Finland Alumni. Finland is the promised land of associations, but Finland Alumni could not be registered until last June. Registration took longer than usual and was extremely difficult because a society in which more than a third of the members are foreigners cannot be founded without the Government's permission.

"Thanks for getting things through so quickly are probably due to the support we gained from the former Minister of Education Johannes Virolainen and Kalervo Siikala, head of the international affairs department in the Ministry of Education," says Jussi Nelson.

Virolainen was in fact invited to be honorary chairman of the association and Siikala deputy honorary chairman.

The Finland Alumni association helps foreign students with practical problems, arranges a free-time programme, etc. Every week there is a visit to some place of interest, such as a factory. Once a month there is a lecture on some aspect of Finland and the Finns. In autumn the themes were Finnish politics and business life. This spring there are plans for some of the students to talk about their own countries.

The students used to complain that they never saw much everyday life outside their own field. The association has aimed at putting things right, and tries to give foreigners as wide a picture as possible of conditions in Finland and the life of its people.

Part of the association's work is keeping in contact with students who have now returned to their own country. "I am only too pleased," says Mr. Nelson, "if, on returning home, these students no longer think there are polar bears walking down the main streets of Helsinki, which is still a regrettably common impression of Finland in many places abroad. And I hope

SWITZERLAND

My new home for the next five months

By Gary Johnson

I am working at a ski lodge high in the Alps with one continuous picture of beauty all around me!

We are 7,000 feet above sea level and most days the clouds are below us. Now that winter has arrived, the only access to the ski lodge is by gondola lift between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. which takes 18 minutes from the village of Barbo-leuz — 2 miles below us.

The lodge is operated by Monsieur & Madame Aegerter, wonderful people to work for. Monsieur Aegerter was formerly a professional musician and comedian and his daily antics keep us all amused.

There are four of us here from Canada. Melody & Marcia Strong live in Drake, Saskatchewan and they came to Europe in July. They plan to do more travelling throughout Europe when the ski season ends in April.

Tim McCauley is from a small place in Alberta called Edmonton. Tim has been in Europe since September and arrived here from Greece.

So you can see that we have a small Canadian colony high in the Alps! The shocking thing is that there are over 200 Canadians working in the villages below us. I guess there are thousands of us travelling throughout the world, learning and growing.

The balance of our staff consists of: Monique Jotterand, a French Swiss girl who is our cashier; Armand Kohli, a jovial fellow, is our handyman; and Pierre Alain Grobetg is our Chef and, I might add, a very (burp!) good Chef!

Switzerland is amazing in so much as there are three different cultures — French, German and Italian. I am in the French part of Switzerland and, although my French is very bad, many French Swiss speak German, so I have been able to communicate.

All of us at the ski lodge are crazy about skiing and we take every opportunity to hit the slopes. All I have to do is slap on my skis and walk 20 feet out the front door and I'm going down the mountain. It is just impossible to describe how breathlessly beautiful it is here!

Christmas is rapidly approaching and I'm excited about enjoying new customs and traditions.

Although you will not read this until January, I would like to wish all of you, a wonderful Christmas and very happy New Year!

Gunnar Myrdal, 71-year-old writer and head of the Stockholm Peace Research Institute, and his writer wife, Alva, Sweden's minister of atomic disarmament, have been awarded the peace prize for 1970. In accepting the \$2,720 prize, the Myrdals urged a ban on all atomic, biological and chemical weapons.

they will tell their friends they have noticed this."

"Of course, adds Jussi with a glint in his eye, "there never have been any here."

Jussi, who has fennicised his English name John, knows Finland almost like the back of his hand, but he still views the country through the eyes of a foreigner. His Finnish is excellent, which is really no wonder since his mother was in fact Finnish. She died in 1952, but when his father re-married he again took a Finnish wife.

Jussi came into contact with Finland at a very early age, as he used to spend every summer in Finland. Thus at twelve he was the only one in his class who could place Finland correctly on the map in geography tests. The teacher later showed Jussi the other children's answers, which were a cause of great inner amusement.

"When you mention Finland people usually know it is somewhere south of Greenland. Interest in Finland is, however, on the rise. In this respect the SALT talks have been of great influence."

FINNISH SOCIETY

By Anne Sahuri

The annual meeting of Finnish Society will be held on Jan. 23 at the Scandinavian Centre. All members are urged to attend.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Tapio Rautio of

Husband phoned his wife from the office Friday, said he was going fishing over the weekend, and asked her to pack a bag for him.

"Be sure to pack my blue silk pajamas because after a day of fishing, I like to shower and lounge around. It relaxes me better than anything else," he explained.

He returned from his trip without any fish, but with tales of the big ones that got away, and so on, and then reproached her:

"Why didn't you pack my blue silk pajamas like I asked you to do?"

"I did, dear," she said sweetly. "I put them in your tackle box."

Teacher You wrote less than half a page on the subject of milk. The assignment was to write a one page theme.

Student: I was writing about condensed milk.

When you point the finger of scorn, look at your hand — you will find three fingers pointing back at you. — Persian Proverb.

Naturally, it caused quite some excitement when a horse left his post and went up to a pari-mutuel window. "I want to put \$5 to win on myself," he declared.

"You what—!" gasped the man at the window.

"Never heard a horse talking before, eh?" grinned the bettor.

"It's not so much that," was the response. "I just don't think you got a chance to win."

Some people sneak through life as if they were supposed to be somewhere else.

Daughter had passed her driver's test and was taking the family car out alone for the first time. As Mother waved from the window and Dad wished her "Bon Voyage" at the curb, the young lady suddenly blurted out:

"Say, Dad, what should I do if the brakes give way?"

"Perish the thought, honey," exclaimed Dad. Then he added: "But if that should happen, just hang on to the wheel and steer into something cheap!"

If you knew the truth about other people's marriages, your own would seem relatively successful. There now, aren't you horrified?

The words "I love you" constitute a solution built right into the problem, and a problem built right into the solution.

The man who really wants to improve the world will start by treating his wife a little better.

The bank robber shoved a note across to the teller. The note read: Put the money in a bag, Sucker, and don't make any false moves.

The bank teller pushed back another note, which said: Straighten your tie, Stupid, they're taking your picture.

Money often costs too much.

—Emerson

Portland, Ore. who were married recently.

Children's Christmas party was very well attended in the usual manner. It was a delight to watch the children's performance. Santa's bag was full of presents and all seemed happy at the conclusion of the party.

The adult's Christmas party was really delightful with Christmas carols, piano solos, "joulupuuro" and many goodies served by Mrs.

Liimatainen. The evening was topped by very good music by the capable orchestra and everyone enjoyed the dancing. Santa was there too.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Aira Salomaa on her special birthday on Dec. 27.

1971 visitors to Edmonton included Mr. & Mrs. V. Backstrom of Helsinki, Finland. They were visiting Mr. & Mrs. B. Bergenstrom and family and are the parents of Mrs. Bergenstrom.

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Scandinavian History and Culture Probed

NORWEGIAN PROGRAM RADIO CKUA WAR

INTRODUCTION:

Dr. Bourassa — To set the stage for our discussion this afternoon I'd like to recall the purpose of these talks. That purpose is to try to understand the Norse influence on our present way of life.

In order to accomplish this purpose we have discussed some of the very early migrations from Scandinavia which served to populate much of Europe and we have been discussing the great expansion of Scandinavian influence during Viking times. After we have discussed this background material we will try to describe the important effects that the Norse way of life had in shaping our present culture.

The reason for discussing Viking techniques of waging war is that many of the Viking settlements in Europe and Russia were made possible because the land was taken in war. However, we must remember that the Vikings were assiduous traders and peaceful pioneers. Warfare is just one aspect of the Viking expansion. What we should be concerned with is, not so much the great battles that were fought but rather, the more general aspects of Viking culture which made the Vikings successful warriors, as well as successful explorers, settlers, and merchants.

Ingrid — What kinds of weapons did the Viking use?

Dr. Bourassa — Well, in some ways the Viking ship was the major weapon. We can get back to that later, though. Several more usual weapons were used by the Vikings — swords, daggers, spears, bow and arrow and, of course, the battle ax. The swords used in Viking times were probably double edged and about 80 cm. long, with a shallow groove running the length of the blade. They weighed two or three pounds. The earlier swords were made in a rather complex way which I can't describe right now, but which gave the blades a patterned effect. In the late 9th century, either because of improved ore or improvements in furnace construction, it was possible to make a higher quality blade. These were probably made in Rhineland and were tougher, lighter and tapered more than the older blades. The older blades usually had a rather round tip and were probably not used for thrusting but rather for "chopping". Based both on saga accounts and on findings in graves it seems that most of the highly valued swords were imported, rather than made in Scandinavia.

Ingrid — Does that mean that the Viking swords were similar to what other people were using?

Dr. Bourassa — Yes, the Viking swords were no better than anyone else's. Any superiority of the Vikings in sword play was due to practice. Of course, the Vikings did design their own hilts or handles for the blades and some of the designs are beautiful. Most of the hilts, by the way, were only large enough to be gripped by one hand, so presumably most of the sword play was one-handed. In the other hand the Viking might have held a spear. There were several types of spears — some for throwing and some for thrusting.

It is often claimed in the sagas that warriors could fight with either hand, so that if one arm was wounded the sword could be switched to the other hand. One of Olaf Trygvason's feats was throwing two spears at the same time, one from each hand. Olaf was one of the first to try to bring christianity to Norway and apparently needed to use both hands. After King Olaf's death, a man, claiming to be his son, tried to take the throne. Although he was declared to be a liar and only a priest's son, in his last battle he stood throwing spears from both hands at once saying, "That was how my father taught me to say

mass."

Another weapon was the famed battle ax. This weapon probably developed from the standard tool. In fact the hand ax has a hammer opposite the blade. Another type of ax was called the bearded ax. This ax had a semicircle cut out of the blade so that a kind of hook was formed. This type of ax was apparently useful on ships for grappling, that is hooking on to another ship and pulling it close. And finally there was the broad ax. This was a heavy, long-handled weapon usually needing two hands to use it. According to Brondsted the battle ax was already obsolete in most other countries and it was used at that time only by the Vikings.

I think I needn't say much about the bows and arrows. In fact not much is really known about the bows.

Ingrid — Did the Vikings use shields or armour?

Dr. Bourassa — Yes, the shield was a common device for defense. These were round and small — no more than a yard in diameter. They were usually constructed of one or two layers of wood with an iron rim around it, and perhaps occasionally reinforced with metal strips. The handle was a metal strip near the centre of the shield. A small hole was cut out of the shield to make room for the hand. This hole was covered with a metal cap. The shield, when not in use, could be carried on a thong around the neck. It could be worn to the left to keep the right hand free or swing around to be worn on the back. This allowed both hands to be free and was also a useful position for the shield when fleeing the field of battle.

Helmets were worn also. These usually fit snugly over the head and might have extensions which covered the ears and nose. So far as can be told none of the helmets used in battle ever had horns on it. Conceivably horned helmets were worn for ceremonial purposes. Some warriors also probably wore a short shirt of chain mail but it appears that most warriors, if they used body armour at all, must have used padded leather jerkins or some such homemade device. As an example it is said that one of the rebels who opposed St. Olaf had a coat of reindeer hide, that was as effective against sword blows as a coat of chain mail.

Ingrid — I suppose we ought to find out how these weapons were used in battle.

Dr. Bourassa — All right. There were several forms of combat ranging from single combat, that is, a kind of duelling, through what we might call small group combat, to engagements of armies. There were also naval battles and we might talk about those later.

There may have been a couple of forms of duelling one of which had few rules and another, the holmgang, which apparently was well organized with a complete set of rules. However, the saga accounts differ somewhat in specifying the exact rules. In any case duelling seems to have been an acceptable way to resolve problems which couldn't be settled more peacefully. Briefly, it involved combat with swords and shields in a specified area. One could lose not only by being killed or wounded but also by being forced out of the duelling area. The main point in mentioning the holmgang is that in some respects the kind of individual combat engaged in was similar to the sort of individual combat which would occur naturally on the field of battle. The general techniques seem to involve using the shield to turn the opponent's sword. Blocking the opponent's sword with your own sword would result in a very dull blade. The sword blows were hacking or chopping type blows, not thrusts. A blow taken on the edge of the shield might shatter the sword blade or, instead, the shield itself might be shattered. A favorite sword stroke seems to have been to chop off an opponent's arm or

leg. For example in Egil's saga it tells of a duel in which Egil presses his opponent by moving in close and raining sword blows on him. When his opponent tries to step back to gain room to swing his sword "... his shield did not cover him. Then Egil struck him above the knee, and cut off his leg. Igot fell, and at once died."

Ingrid — I suppose that when small groups fought, pretty much the same thing happened?

Dr. Bourassa — Yes. Hostilities might start with an exchange of arrows or spears but then the warriors moved to closer quarters and swords and axes were used. If we are to believe the sagas the combatants must have been like acrobats, jumping, leaping and switching the sword from hand to hand. For example in Njal's saga, when Karl seeks vengeance on those who burned Njal, he is described fighting a number of opponents. First he takes a spear thrust with his shield and as the spear pierces the shield, he twists it so as to break the spear. At the same time he delivers a death blow with his sword, killing his first opponent. Then, "Grani Gunnarsson seized a spear and hurled it at Kari. Kari jammed his shield down into the ground so hard that it stood upright by itself, caught the spear in flight, hurled it back at Grani, and then caught hold of his shield again — all with his left hand."

The sagas contain many such stories and though they may be exaggerated a bit, they still suggest the Norse warrior was highly skilled in the use of his weapons, and a fast moving, agile combatant.

Ingrid — This was probably the kind of fighting the early Vikings would do on their raids.

Dr. Bourassa — Yes. The first Viking raids were usually made by small numbers of men who would slip ashore to obtain plunder and to restock their ships. As I mentioned on an earlier program these first raiders made no permanent settlements and returned to Scandinavia during the winter. The early Viking raiders were greatly feared because of their fierceness, and because no one could be sure where or when they would strike.

Ingrid — I suppose this was because they would appear suddenly out of the sea and no one could say where they might land?

Dr. Bourassa — Yes. The Vikings had complete control of the European waters. No other country could match their ability as sailors. The Viking ships are considered a masterful design even today. The ships had a very shallow draft so they could be sailed along rivers allowing the Vikings to attack far inland. Moreover after completing a raid, or even when things went wrong, the Vikings could return to their ships and sail off knowing that little if any pursuit could follow them. Thus the Vikings could strike and escape with little fear of retaliation. In fact no other country ever even managed to mount an attack on Scandinavia. Think how helpless the Irish or English must have felt to know that their countries lay open to attack and that they could do nothing to strike back at the attackers. This is why I said earlier that the Viking ship is really one of the most important weapons the Vikings had. In fact it was really the one material weapon the Vikings had that their opponents did not have. So now that we know what weapons the Vikings used and a little something of how they used them, we can, on the next program, turn to the Viking ways of organized warfare.

He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!
—Edwin Markham

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